Unit Objectives

Piaget’s Theory of Cognitive Development

Students should be able to:

1. Identify and briefly explain the major **assumptions** underlying Piaget’s theory of cognitive development.

2. Highlight, in number one above, an explanation of the logical importance of the assumption of **balance, independence** and **social transmission**, and the role each plays in the development of cognition.

3. Explain what is, and provide examples of, the **structure** of cognition.

4. Explain what is, and provide examples of, the **function** of cognition.

5. Differentiate between, and provide examples in children of, assimilation, accommodation, and disequilibrium.

6. Explain what is meant by a cognitive representation.

7. Tell what is meant by, and identify in an example, the following concepts:

   1. object permanence
   2. egocentricity
   3. decentration (centration)
   4. irreversibility (reversibility)
   5. transductive reasoning
   6. symbolic function

8. Briefly explain whether cognitive development is a continuous or discontinuous process that is tied to specific ages.

9. Briefly describe the cognitive accomplishments characterized by the four periods of cognitive development:

   - sensorimotor
   - preoperational
   - concrete operational
   - formal operational

10. You should be able to identify the stages of cognitive development given examples of children’s behavior.